

Arlington Conservation Commission
Minutes
September 18, 2014

Mr. Stevens called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m. in the second floor conference room of the Town Hall Annex. Present were Nathaniel Stevens, David White, Charles Tirone, Eileen Coleman, Curt Connors, Susan Chapnick, Janine White, Catherine Garnett and Mike Nonni of the Commission. Michelle Durocher of the Commission was not present. DPW Director Michael Rademacher, Cheryl Miller, Patrick Dwyer, Mike DeMartino, Laura Kuhn, David and Lauren Kopans were also present.

7:45pm – Commission Business:

DWhite/Chapnick motioned to approve the 9/4 **minutes** with edits; motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Miller was present to discuss multiple topics in regards to the **Land Stewards** program, firstly to organize a fall meeting. Ms. Beckwith will send around potential dates. The town has a new communication policy, and Ms. Miller had a question on its implications for statements made on the local mailing lists and on possible social media platforms. Mr. Stevens will review the policy and get back to her with feedback. Mr. Nonni is composing two new lists of invasive plant management techniques and native plants to recommend as replacements which will help Ms. Miller with some of her specific topics.

The Commission discussed multiple topics that were brought up at the **Town Day** booth on Sept. 13th. These included: locked gate on Brooks Ave, Pond Lane drainage problems, anonymous report of chemical and sewage dumping in the backyard of a Dudley St business, boat usage on Spy Pond, request for additional materials appropriate for school-age children, and general discussion about updating the Commission's booth.

Mr. DeMartino was present to ask for the Certificate of Compliance for permit number 91-250 for the paving of **Wright St**. Ms. Beckwith inspected the site on 9/15/14. Mr. Tirone asked if the Engineering department also had inspected the paving work. He asked for verification of that prior to the release. Tirone/JWhite motioned to approve the Certificate of Compliance for the work, contingent upon the above verification is made; motion passed unanimously.

8pm – **Discussion** – follow up and review of snow storage at the Arlington Reservoir

Mr. Rademacher reviewed the past season of snow storage and use at the parking lot adjacent to the Arlington Reservoir, last winter. Mr. Tirone produced some photos of the project towards the end of the season. While there was damage on one tree near the entrance, it was determined not to have been from this activity. The silt-fence was falling down at one point, but the berm at the base was still in place. Since the area slopes away from the waterbody, no sedimentation occurred to the waterbody.

The Commission requested tree protection (2"x4" boards around trunk) be installed for trees on perimeter of snow storage area (similar to tree protection that is being used along the Mass Ave reconstruction project). The Commission also asked that orange construction fence be added to the line of erosion controls, so that it is visible from inside the trucks doing the work. Mr. Rademacher agreed to these additional requests and also said that the line of erosion controls would be installed earlier in the season, prior to the ground freezing.

The Commission also expressed its reluctance to issue another permit for this activity, past the current three year term of this one (this 2014-2015 winter is the 2nd year of the permit). Mr. Rademacher said they are actively pursuing other solutions.

8:15pm Notice of Intent – 15 Thesda St., addition

Mr. Dwyer presented his application materials for the addition on the rear of his house. Mr. Dwyer also asked if he could plant a Blue Spruce. Mr. Nonni said that the tree should be placed no closer than 12 feet from his foundation. The Commission would like a site walk to determine if a planting plan is required. Ms. Beckwith will send out a schedule for this.

Tirone/DWhite motioned to continue the hearing to October 2, at 8pm; motion passed unanimously.

8:30pm Enforcement – 2 Princeton Rd

Ms. Kuhn presented the last letter from Mr. and Mrs. Kopans explaining the situation with two large willows on the shoreline that were cut extensively earlier this year. They acted on information (supposedly from the Town) that since the trees would resprout, they could cut them significantly.

The Commission will visit the property on their own to ascertain whether a replanting plan is required at this point.

The Kopans are working with Ms. Kuhn on drafting an application to repair the failing retaining wall along the shoreline as well as an overall landscaping plan, but are not sure when it will be completed.

Mr. Stevens asked Mr. Kopans to send larger photos by email to the Commission.

Connors/DWhite motioned to continue the hearing on this matter to 10/2 at 8:15pm; motion passed unanimously.

Commission Business (cont.):

Ms. Beckwith reviewed the acreage of the Town **Conservation land** parcels and

Showed the new data to the Commission for their concurrence. The new information will be incorporated into the Master Plan and the new Stewards Handbook.

Chapnick/DWhite motioned to support the November election ballot question for Arlington to adopt the **Community Preservation Act** (CPA); motion passed unanimously. Chapnick/Coleman motioned to allow a group supporting the adoption of the CPA to have the Arlington Conservation Commission listed as a supporter on its website and in its materials (without the use of public monies); motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Beckwith reported on the new locked gate at the corner of Brooks Ave in the Mt. Pleasant Cemetery, which prevents pedestrian access to the back portion of **Meadowbrook Park** conservation land. Ms. Beckwith relayed the reports of ice fishermen and canoers parking their trucks on Brooks Ave and entering the Mill Brook and Mystic Lakes along this route. They were also loitering for long periods and drinking. The Commission agrees that this location should not be a boat launch access, but will ask that the gate remain unlocked to allow for pedestrian access.

Connors/JWhite motioned to approve the **meeting schedule** for 2015; motion passed unanimously. The start time will be 15 minutes earlier at 7:30pm in 2015. The Commission discussed ending meetings no later than 10:00 p.m.

Mr. Nonni reported that the **Spy Pond planting day** on September 6, went smoothly for the most part.

Ms. Chapnick will email an updated version of the flow-chart for the **Enforcement Policy** originally generated by Ms. Coleman.

Mr. Tirone distributed materials (a list and a profile form) to organize the **inspection of waterbodies** in light of an equitable distribution of the waterbodies account funds. Mr. Tirone will email the water bodies list and the example assessment table that he distributed at the meeting. The Commission will review and re-visit this topic at to decide on assessment process.

The tree stump at **Watermill Place** Condominiums was cut to the ground, counter to the recommendation of the Commission. Mr. Stevens asked Ms. Beckwith to contact the property manager to ask for a replacement planting.

Meeting adjourned at 10:27pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Corinna Beckwith
Commission Administrator